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PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

Plague spreading in Manila.

Assistant Surgeon Heiser, Chief Quarantine Officer for the Philippine Islands, reports, April 21, as follows: The number of cases of plague has been steadily increasing of late, as may be seen from the tabulated plague report which is regularly submitted. With the view to preventing the plague spreading to other parts of the islands and to the United States, it has been deemed necessary to fumigate with sulphur, in order to kill rats and vermin, the entire shipping which enters and leaves this port. This is a very large undertaking and taxes the station force to its utmost limit. The board of health is cooperating on land in this matter. They have employed a number of rat catchers and pay a 5-cent bonus for every rat delivered to them. In addition, they contemplate inoculating every Chinese with Shiga antiseptic serum.

PORTO RICO.

Report from Ponce—Inspection of vessels—Mortality statistics.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Malaret reports, May 18, through the chief quarantine officer, as follows: During the week ended May 18 bills of health were issued to 5 vessels. The sanitary conditions of the city and vicinity have undergone no material change since the date of my last report.

During the week ended May 23, 1903, bills of health were issued to 8 vessels. The president of the local board of health reports 3 cases of gripe in the city of Ponce. Nothing else of sanitary interest has occurred during the week.

Summary of transactions of service during the month of April, 1903.

Total number of vessels inspected during April—	
1903	18
1902	16
Bills of health issued during April—	
1903	23
1902	26
Passengers inspected during April, 1903—	
Incoming	46
In transit	402
Crew inspected during April, 1903	786
Vessels in quarantine during April, 1903	7
Immigrants inspected during April, 1903	22
Rejections	0
Number of passengers detained for observation during April, 1903.....	4

Number and causes of deaths in Ponce jurisdiction during the month of April, 1903.

Diseases of the digestive system	52	Scrofula	2
Nervous system	13	Old age	3
Circulatory system	6	Wounds	2
Respiratory system	14	Anæmia, inanition, etc.	19
Genito-urinary apparatus	4		
Malarial fever	6		136
Tuberculosis	6		
Carcinoma	3	Total number of deaths in April, 1903.....	a 136
Diphtheria	1	Total number of births in April, 1903.....	a 163
Puerperal fever	1	Total number of deaths in April, 1902.....	a 75
Gastric fever	4	Total number of births in April, 1902.....	a 100

a These figures are for the city proper, the Playa, and surrounding district of Ponce.